

(c) The Director shall appoint the staff of the Department, *subject to the authority of the Secretary of Natural Resources under Section 234(c) of Article 41 of this Code and subject to the provisions of the merit system.* The staff of the Department shall consist of such employees as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the Department, in such numbers and at the salaries provided in the annual State Budget. Insofar as the provisions of the merit system provide for disciplinary or dismissal proceedings against employees to be brought by the appointing authority, the Director shall be the appointing authority *unless the Secretary of Natural Resources by written directive provides that the Secretary shall be the appointing authority.* All employees shall be under the supervision and control of the Director and shall perform such duties as he may prescribe. **[The Director and employees of the Department of Tidewater Fisheries who, as of June 1, 1964, have held such employment under the provisions of the Merit System Law, Article 64A of this Code, for a period of not less than six months prior thereto shall be retained in their respective positions with the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs.]** The Director may require any employee who receives monies to furnish bond in such amount as the Director may determine.

[(d) The Director shall serve as a departmental member of the Board of Natural Resources.]

[(e)](d) The Director shall exercise all other powers and duties necessary and proper in carrying out the responsibilities vested in him under this article.

13H.

Any person aggrieved by a final decision of the Department, whether such decision is affirmative or negative in form, or by any rule or regulation of the Department, may **[file a sworn petition with the Commission, asking for a hearing on the decision, or rule or regulation. The petition shall set forth the grounds and reasons for the petitioner's complaint. The chairman shall set a time and place for the hearing and shall notify the petitioner. At the hearing, the petitioner and any other interested parties may appear in person or by counsel, present witnesses and submit evidence. The chairman or any member of the Commission shall have the power to administer oaths to any witnesses who appear to testify at the hearing. The Commission shall as promptly as possible after the hearing render a final decision on the petitioner's complaint.]** *appeal to the Board of Review of the Department of Natural Resources as provided for in Article 41 of this Code.*

13-I.

Any party aggrieved by a final decision of the ~~Commission~~ BOARD OF REVIEW, is entitled to judicial review thereof as provided by the Administrative Procedure Act, Section 255 of Article 41 of this Code.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted, That Sections 15, 16 and 17 of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition and 1967 Replacement Volume), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Maryland Geological Survey," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments, all to read as follows:*